



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2022

Report of the Director - Legal and Democratic Services

Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the latest report from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), relating to member remuneration for 2022/23 in order to make recommendations to Council.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 The Council is required to adopt and publish a Members' Allowances Scheme and to consider recommendations from the IRP. Attached for consideration at Appendix 2, is the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel dated March 2022. The IRP held four virtual meetings in order to prepare their report and a summary of the work carried out is included in the Panel's report at section three.
- 2.2 The findings of the Panel are set out in section four of their report with the recommendations in full provided at section five.
- 2.3 In summary, the Panel is recommending that one change is made to the special responsibility allowance payable to the Chairman of the Council to bring it into line with comparable committee chairs. The IRP is recommending that there should be no further changes, aside from the uplift in line with the pay award to staff, to any member allowances for next year.

- 2.4 The Committee will note that the term of office of three members of the IRP is due to expire in December 2022. It is therefore proposed that approval is given to commence a recruitment exercise during the summer to ensure that the vacancies are filled in December so that the IRP is not left inquorate and unable to fulfil its role. It is also proposed that a cross party interview panel of three members of the Committee be established to interview candidates. It is proposed that the interview panel conduct interviews with applicants following shortlisting of applications by the Head of Democratic & Registration Services in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer. The interview panel will recommend who should be appointed to the IRP, however Full Council will have to formally appoint to these roles.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Panel held a meeting with the Leader, Civic Chair and Chair of the Council to seek their views on the level of allowances that should be payable to the Civic Chairman and Council Chairman in order to make their recommendations.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The Committee could decide not to support the recommendations made by the Panel and make their own alternative recommendations for presentation to Council.

5. Implications

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 None identified

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

8. Recommendation(s)

To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in Appendix Two to the report, and recommend them to Council for approval.

8.2 To approve the commencement of a recruitment exercise for IRP members as detailed in the report and agree the composition of the interview panel.

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To ensure that the Council has an up to date and robust scheme for the payment of allowances to members.

To ensure that the impending vacancies are filled in December so that the IRP is not left inquorate and unable to fulfil its role.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 Should Council accept the Panel's recommendations, then costs can be accommodated from within existing budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) set out that local authorities must establish a panel to review and advise on the level of allowances payable to members. The Council must have regard to the recommendation made by the Panel.
- 2.2 Adopting the Members' Allowances Scheme and approval of amendments to the Constitution are both matters which are reserved to full Council. However, under its terms of reference at Article 11 of the Constitution, the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee is required to advise the Council on any matters in connection with the Members' Allowance Scheme, taking into account the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Human Resources

- 3.1 None.

Information Technology

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 Not applicable.